UE 1.1 : Vocabulaire de l'analyse littéraire en anglais

Drama

jouer une pièce	to perform a play
sur scène	on (the) stage
dans les coulisses	offstage
le public	the audience
le décor	the scenery, the setting
les indications scéniques	stage directions
le dramaturge	the playwright
la stichomythie	stichomythia
un monologue / un soliloque	a monologue / a soliloquy
un aparté	an aside
l'ironie dramatique	dramatic irony
l'ironie tragique	tragic irony
une mise en abyme (au théâtre)	a play-within-a-play
une tragédie	a tragedy
une comédie	a comedy
une scène d'exposition	an opening scene
une scène finale	a closing scene

Fiction

un roman	a novel
une nouvelle	a short story
un romancier	a novelist
l'intrigue	the plot
une intrigue secondaire	a subplot
le déroulement de l'intrigue	the unfolding of the plot
un récit	a narrative
un récit enchâssé	an embedded narrative
le point culminant / la chute	the climax / the anticlimax (climactic /anticlimactic)
La tension monte	Tension builds up / rises
La tension se relâche	Tension slackens
une péripétie	a twist in the plot / a new development
réaliste	realistic
le cadre	the setting
un personnage	a character
le personnage principal	the main protagonist
le portrait des personnages	characterization
dépeindre, décrire le caractère de…	to characterize
avoir recours à l'ironie	to resort to irony
le point de vue	point of view / focalization
un narrateur omniscient	an omniscient narrator
un narrateur fiable / peu fiable	a reliable / unreliable narrator
un narrateur dont la présence se fait sentir	an intrusive / obtrusive narrator

raconter	to tell / to relate
le discours direct / indirect	direct / indirect speech
le discours indirect libre	free indirect speech
un monologue intérieur	an interior monologue
flux de conscience	stream of consciousness
Le récit est à la première personne	The narrative is in the first person
un récit à la première personne	a first-person narrative
un changement de point de vue	a shift in focalization
Les événements sont racontés au présent	Events are told in the present tense

Poetry

poétique	poetic(al)
un vers	a line
en vers / en prose	in verse / in prose
une strophe	a stanza / a verse
un enjambement	a run-on line
le sens littéral	the literal meaning
l'assonance	assonance
l'allitération	alliteration
une rime	a rhyme
rimer avec	to rhyme with
les rimes plates	couplet rhymes : aa bb cc...
les rimes croisées	alternate rhymes : abab ...
les rimes embrassées	enclosing rhymes : abba
les vers blancs (non rimés)	blank verse
le vers libre	free verse
le rythme	rhythm
scander un vers	to scan a line
un accent rythmique	a stress
une syllabe accentuée	a stressed syllable
une syllabe non-accentuée	an unstressed syllable
un sonnet	a sonnet

Literary devices

les images (d'une œuvre)	imagery
le champ lexical de…	the lexical field of…
les figures de style	figures of speech
une métaphore / un réseau d'images	a metaphor / a metaphorical network
une comparaison	a simile
la métonymie	metonymy
un oxymore	an oxymoron
un chiasme	a chiasmus
une hyperbole	a hyperbole
un euphémisme	an understatement
un symbole / symbolique	a symbol / symbolic(al)
symboliser / représenter	to symbolize / to stand for
une allégorie / allégorique	an allegory / allegoric(al)

le signifiant / le signifié	the signifier / the signified
les procédés rhétoriques	rhetorical devices
une construction en miroir	a mirror effect
un parallélisme	a parallel / a parallelism
mettre en parallèle	to draw a parallel between…
une analogie	an analogy
un écart	a discrepancy / a gap
un renversement	a reversal
une ellipse	an ellipsis
un motif récurrent	a recurring motif / a leitmotif
la parataxe / l'hypotaxe	parataxis / hypotaxis (paratactic / hypotactic)

Tone and style

un éloge	a eulogy
faire l'éloge de	to praise
une critique	a criticism
critiquer	to criticize / to level a criticism at
la satire / satirique	satire / satiric(al)
faire la satire de	to satirize
une caricature	a caricature
l'ironie / ironique	irony / ironic(al)
un effet ironique	an ironic effect
l'humour / humoristique	humour / humorous
un jeu de mots	a pun
une élégie / élégiaque	an elegy / elegiac
le pathétique	pathos
évocateur	evocative
poignant	poignant
déroutant	puzzling
frappant	striking
inhabituel	unusual
vivant	vivid
le style	style
simple	plain / unadorned
élaboré	sophisticated
inventif	inventive
plein d'imagination	imaginative
captivant	engrossing
émouvant	moving
convaincant	convincing
cinglant	scathing
prosaïque	matter-of-fact / down-to-earth
ampoulé / pompeux	bombastic
banal	commonplace
un cliché	a cliché
cynique	cynical
péremptoire	assertive
détaché	detached

dogmatique	dogmatic
sérieux	earnest
didactique	didactic
mélodramatique	melodramatic
moqueur	mocking
se moquer de qqn	to mock someone
objectif	objective
sarcastique	sarcastic
solennel	solemn

The language of commentary

citer / une citation	to quote / a quotation
(à la) ligne 23	(on) line 23
au chapitre 10	in chapter 10
à la page 18	on page 18
un extrait de	an excerpt / an extract from
tiré de	taken from
un exemple de	an example of / an instance of
résumer	to sum up / to summarize
Le passage est composé de trois parties	The passage falls into three parts
être composé de	to consist of (ex : The poem consists of three stanzas)
consister en qqch / à faire qqch	to consist in sth / in doing sth (ex : The text consists in a political speech)
une phrase	a sentence
une expression	a phrase
un mot-clé	a keyword
le niveau de langue	the register
soutenu	formal
familier / informel	colloquial / informal
l'argot	slang
ponctuation	punctuation
un point	a full stop
une virgule	a comma
un point-virgule	a semicolon
deux-points	a colon
des points de suspension	dots
des parenthèses	brackets / parentheses
entre parenthèses	in brackets
des guillemets	quotation marks / quotes / inverted commas
un point d'interrogation / d'exclamation	a question / exclamation mark
une majuscule	a capital
en majuscules	in capitals / in capital letters
replacer qqch dans son contexte	to set something against its context
décrire	to describe / to depict
faire le portrait de	to portray
un portrait	a portrayal / a portrait
mettre en avant	to foreground
incarner / être la quintessence de...	to epitomize / to be the epitome of

incarner	to embody / to be the embodiment of
expliquer / justifier	to account for
transmettre / communiquer une impression de…	to convey a sense of...
se concentrer sur	to focus on
mettre l'accent sur	to lay emphasis on / to lay stress on to emphasize
s'étendre sur	to dwell on
commenter qqch	to comment on sth
faire une allusion à	to allude to / to hint at
faire une référence à	to refer to
laisser entendre	to imply
nuancer une opinion	to qualify an opinion
faire attention à	to pay close attention to
prôner	to advocate
déclencher / provoquer	to trigger off / to bring about
avoir recours à	to resort to / to have recourse to
pertinent	relevant
par opposition à	in contrast to
une hypothèse	an assumption / to assume
démystifier / discréditer	to debunk / to undermine
dénoncer / révéler	to expose / to reveal
remarquer / noter	to notice / to note
éluder / éviter / omettre	to elude / to evade / to omit
attirer l'attention sur	to draw attention to
indiquer / signaler	to point out
évoquer	to conjure up
conclure	to conclude

The main topic:
• This text/speech/article is about
• This text hinges on
• It is an account of
• It is a comment upon
• It has to do with the problem of
• In this text/poem, the author/poet tackles the problem of how to
• This text turns upon/around the idea that
• It treats of
• It handles the theme of

Structure:
• My analysis will fall into three parts
• We can break the passage down into several parts
• This text consists of two parts

To show, to express, to suggest:
• The author/speaker concentrates on/concentrates his attention on
• The use of this word calls attention to the theme of

• This text displays irony/wit/humo(u)r
• The use of the word x betrays
• The author's concern with that subject is evidenced by
• Through the use of this stylistic figure we are made aware of
• All these elements demonstrate the impossibility for the speaker to
• The use of this word denotes a certain ambiguity
• The passage evokes the dire living conditions of Indian farmers
• The description focuses on
• The author's portrayal of x is ambiguous
• The events that led to the independence of India are briefly sketched in the first two lines
• Those few sentences give us a hint of
• The use of French words in the text reveals that
• The last paragraph exhibits a more solemn tone
• In the last sentence, we are shown that
• The use of this word signals a discrepancy
• Through this comment, the author points out
• The use of this word implies
• In this text, the author builds up a strong sense of outrage
• All these elements contribute to the effect of
• This passage distils an impression of mystery
• It celebrates the joy of
• These lines are couched in hyperbolic style
• This text works out an analogy between today's India and colonial India
• This sentence makes it plain that the author refuses to
• His anger is exemplified by
• This sentence throws light upon the character's motivations

Vocabulary of emphasis:

• The emphatic repetition of the word… serves to
• The second paragraph is laden with emotion
• The use of this metaphor deepens the significance of
• Our attention is drawn to the fact that
• The compulsive repetition of this word places the emphasis on the notion of
• In the last paragraph, the author puts heavy emphasis on the word
• Keats' portrait of the knight sets him off as someone who
• All these elements sharpen the contrasts between the two men
• The point is almost overemphasized
• This description underlines
• Her analysis is supported by the fact that
• The use of this word reinforces the overall impression of
• This quote throws light upon Shelley's opinion on the monarchy
• This description enhances the humo(u)r of the passage
• The obsessive repetition of the same words foregrounds Keats' obsession with mutability
• It highlights his feeling of responsibility
• It draws the reader's/the audience's attention to the fact
• The passage focuses on the speaker's frustration
• This idea of responsibility is given additional weight by

Similarity:

• This is consonant with the idea that (en accord avec)
• There is a correspondence between the rhythm of the text and the actions it describes

• This blurs the distinction between… and…
• This comparison is echoed in the use of the expression
• This word is synonymous with
• This paragraph draws a parallel between… and…

Accumulation and repetition:
• She piles up images of
• The word X occurs several times
• The text abounds in birth images
• The frequency of the word… shows that
• The dialogue is a string of insults the characters throw at each other

Oppositions:
• The expression... stands in sharp contrast to...
• The use of starkly polarized words such as life and death
• The theme of life is balanced against the theme of death
• The contradiction between X and Y
• The text is built on a contrast between
• The second paragraph provides a contrast to the preceding one
• There is a disparity/a disjunction between
• This metaphor is incongruous/inconsistent/at odds with the theme of

Causes:
• Her discomfort is based on/generated by
• It can be ascribed to
• It is prompted by
• It is a response to
• It springs from
• There is a causal link between... and...
• All these elements are responsible for/the sources of her discomfort
• They foster a feeling of discomfort
• Her condemnation is motivated by
• Her discomfort lies at the root of her judgment

Consequence:
• The conclusion we can draw from this is that
• All these elements contribute to an impression of
• By way of conclusion
• Her own feeling of discomfort affects her description
• Her harsh judgment results from her own experience
• Her discomfort and her subsequent condemnation of the town
• The mention of X triggers a description of the character
• It follows that
• Her violent language generates surprise from the reader

Overtones:
• The second paragraph tones down the violent language used in the first one
• The author compensates for the quote's violence by resorting to
• This violent language is countered by
• It is mitigated by/softened by/lightened by/deflected by

• The author's humor overrides the quote's violent language
• This serious description is undercut by some light remarks
• The pathos of these lines is restricted by/checked by its humor
• The humor of these lines attenuates its pathos

Impact on reader/audience:
• This sentence elicits a strong response from the reader
• The reader is gripped (captivated)/overwhelmed/baffled (perplexed)/exasperated by
• The reader is inclined to
• The anecdote excites the reader's pity
• We sympathize with the character's plight
• This calls for the reader's empathy
• We would miss the point if we thought that
• There is something disturbing about the author's tone
• The question should not be construed as a rhetorical one
• The sentence should not be taken as a confession on behalf of the author

To develop:
• This idea is carried further in the 2nd paragraph
• The narrator works out an analogy between
• The text enlarges on the theme of death

To give:
• The description provides/supplies many details
• This metaphor endows the text with a poetic dimension
• The author invests the father of the nation with many qualities
• The use of this expression lends sharpness to the character

How to introduce a quotation:
• As the author puts it
• To quote but one example
• In the journalist's/the author's/the speaker's own words
• This is illustrated by the sentence
• To quote from the text

To reflect:
• His words are the expression of his hopes
• All these expressions are eloquent of the character's confidence
• The use of this word mirrors the character's interest for

To use:
• The journalist draws upon/adopts/employs a variety of metaphors
• The handling of the metaphors by the character is quite clumsy
• The author uses this metaphor to full advantage
• The author has recourse to/resorts to a simile
• The narrator adopts an ironic tone
• The author draws upon a large number of similes
• He adopts a variety of styles
• He makes judicious/constant use of

Useful expressions:
• The description of London departs from the usual descriptions of that city
• Such a point deserves consideration
• The character regards this type of behaviour as
• The use of this expression functions as a signal to the reader
• The opening anecdote acts as a sort of prelude
• The author affirms/argues/asserts/maintains/remarks
• The author discusses the problem of/investigates the relation between/pays close attention to the issue of
• The author employs a first-person point of view
• The text exploits a comic situation
• This expression encapsulates the poetic quality of the text
• This expression epitomizes the author's vision of the world
• All these expressions build up a crescendo
• This crescendo climaxes in the image of
• It is worth noting that
• He does not confine himself to showing
• This sentence encapsulates the major themes of the text
• This expression is representative of
• This remark epitomizes/is the epitome of (ex: hatred)

Linking words
• Negation:
nothing justifies such an interpretation
it would be wrong to think that

• confirmation, addition:
added to this is
what is more
not to speak of
moreover
not to mention
besides
also
furthermore
without mentioning

• likeness:
similarly
correspondingly

• exception:
except for
save for
apart from

• reformulation:
to put the point another way
that is to say

the other point discussed, namely
in other words

• causes & consequences:
owing to
consequently
as a consequence
as a result
accordingly
hence
so
thus
thanks to
therefore
then
thereby

• recapitulation:
in short
in conclusion
altogether
all in all
to summarize

• assertion, insistence:
there is no doubt that
it is quite clear that
indeed
assuredly
indisputably
one should/must stress that
undoubtedly

• opposition and restriction:
but
contrary to
despite
in spite of
on the contrary
provided that
nonetheless
this is not to say that
whereas
although/though
by way of contrast
conversely
however
instead of
on the other hand
nevertheless

notwithstanding
unless
yet

• sequence:
first/firstly/to begin with/at first
secondly/second
then/next/afterwards
finally/lastly